

# UCUT

## Blocked Area Management Plan

### Briefing Paper

The Upper Columbia United Tribes are currently developing a management plan that will lay the foundation, and ultimately guide, their management decisions for the next couple of decades. This planning process is twofold: 1) to comprehensively outline pre-development conditions, developments, current conditions/future directions, and fish and wildlife management policies and 2) to provide a roadmap, or foundation, for the UCUT's to develop subbasin plans for inclusion into provincial reviews.

This effort is being conducted to integrate into the myriad of processes currently underway and anticipated in the future throughout the Columbia Basin (NWPPC amendment process, Federal 4-H paper, ISRP reviews, Framework, etc.). The UCUT vision is a healthy Columbia River ecosystem comprised of clean, connected terrestrial and aquatic habitats, which fully support all traditional Tribal uses.

Future management documents in the blocked area will consist of an umbrella Blocked Area management plan (BAMP), followed by subbasin summaries (by province) which ultimately will guide the ongoing, and new projects targeted to meet the biological objectives set for each subbasin. The critical path for providing cultural and subsistence needs is functioning systems. Functioning systems promote fish passage, clean water, connected terrestrial habitats, and certainty of habitats by regulating river operations. Functioning systems are not necessarily native.

The BAMP will consist of the following areas:

#### **Description of plan area**

For purposes of this plan, the Blocked Area refers to those areas upstream from Chief Joseph Dam. This area consists of subbasins in the Mountain and Intermountain provinces. Specific subbasins covered in this plan are the Upper Columbia Mainstem, Nespelem, Sanpoil, Kettle, Colville, Spokane, Coeur d' Alene, Lower Pend Oreille, Upper Pend Oreille, and Kootenai. Included in these subbasins are the connected fluvial system, closed lacustrine habitats, and the terrestrial habitats.

#### **Predevelopment Conditions**

A thorough description of the ecosystem as it appeared prior to development is presented for two main reasons: 1) This description is useful in describing a benchmark condition for natural communities and 2) allows an appreciation for the loss when compared with the current conditions.

**Developments**

A summary of the major developments and industrializations in the Blocked Area briefly describes some of the impacts that have caused the drastic change in ecosystem function.

**Current Conditions/Future Direction**

A summary of the current ecosystem conditions existing in the Blocked Area describes the results of a century of developments, industrializations, and natural resource management. The future direction explains the long-term description of a desired condition and relates interim measures with spiritual and cultural values of the UCUT.

**Fish and Wildlife Management Procedure**

Management philosophies outline the cultural, spiritual, and subsistence needs of the UCUT and address the ecological condition. The policies are the vehicles that address the philosophies of the UCUT. Each policy is described and grounded in ecological and cultural principles.

The UCUT's expect that the elements outlined in the BAMP and subsequent subbasin plans, be integrated with any regional management document developed, or being developed, for the Columbia River system. Furthermore, discussions must be conducted to ensure that regional plans fully incorporate the management directives of the UCUT's. We welcome opportunity to work with the principles of the federal agencies to ensure that adequate representation and protection of Upper Columbia resources takes place.

We appreciate this opportunity for constructive dialogue and look forward to working with you towards defining the future management of the Columbia River.